Bristol, November 2nd 1846.

My dear Mr. May.

It will be necessary for me to write very laconically as I have very little time before the post goes.

Your last letter is that of October 1st in reply to two ~~former~~ from me. Another from me crossed yours, so that if you have not written again when this reaches you, you will have two more of mine to acknowledge. The acknowledgement of yourself & Mrs. Chapman of the satisfaction of Mr. Garrison's friends ~~have~~ at his reception in Bristol, is some sort of revival to us of the pleasure afforded us by his visit. Of the general results of his mission to England time has yet to show. Unquestionably a good deal of attention will be drawn to Amn. Slavery. Though many object to the denouncing course Mr. G. took in reference to the Ev. Alliance, I am disposed to think it was in the line of his duty to show up the Amn. delegates as he did. His error has been, (and a great mistake I am satisfied it was,) to mix himself up unnecessarily with vexed English questions, under some sort of quixotic notion, as it appeared to me, that the more unpopular he made himself with the middle classes of society in this country, the more he should promote the A-S. cause!! Those parties whom he has most pleased, are least able to do you any service; and the most likely soon to forget all about Amn. Slavery from the pressure of interests nearer to their own welfare; ~~while~~ and he has indisposed to hear with attention all he had to say, a most valuable & influential section, who, if once satisfied of the goodness of his cause, would never forget it, & would render it continued & effectual help. — I do not mean to say Mr. G. has done harm to his object, or no good: — I trust he has excited much attention, & done much good; — but I suspect that with such an opportunity as he had, he should not have

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prompted by it to have excited a tenfold degree of Anti-Slavery feeling to that which he has produced. His situation however, was a difficult one; and unless he had had wise advisers when he came hither, I hardly know how he could have chalked out the best course. Happily, his high moral character, and his unselfish devotion to the great cause secure for him respect & consideration.

You must not be too sanguine about "the League". Mr. G.'s course has, I fear, been very fatal to its speedy success at least. I do not know of a single influential person any where who has joined it. I believe that the opinion of the supporters of the B. & F. A-S. Socy is, that if let alone, it will soon die a premature death, and I do not expect to find it attacked in the next Reporter. I trust however there will be a certain number of persons really respectable, & influential in their districts, tho' not generally known, who will push on the League until a strong body of supporters joins it. I mean to do my best, and you may be sure I do not speak to others in the discouraging way I do to you.

Douglass's course is a wise one: indeed he may say what he pleases without being thought uncharitable & intolerant. He is much wanted in some of the central towns of England, where entire ignorance & apathy respecting slavery prevail.

Thank you for the apprehension you express lest the little extra exertion I had during the time of Mr. G.'s visit to Bristol should have been too much for my health. I was in no respects the worse ~~in health, and~~ for all the excitement & enjoyment I had on that interesting occasion.

The Boston slave case has occasioned amongst us a deep feeling of sympathy for the slave, and an earnest hope that the discussion produced will be beneficial — I wrote to Dr. Howe after reading his speech, and sent the letter, with a short note to you to Mr Garrison on the 15 of October when he intended to leave for Boston. Finding his voyage postponed, I wrote to request him to forward the letters by post, but as he has only had time to write once to me, & that immediately after his departure, since he left Bristol, I know nothing of the fate of those communicatns. — I requested you to send Dr H. one of the Bristol letters addressed to you in the box of ~~Boston~~ articles for the Bazaar.

The proceedings of the Evl. Alliance will shew you what hope ~~there~~ there is of ~~[illegible]~~ Mr J. Angell James & Dr Wardlaw joining the "League". Both have preferred orthodoxy to ~~th~~ anti slavery. Even Dr Campbell has cruelly sneered at Mr Garrison. Some Unitn Ministers will join the League, but not those probably who are & most known. W. J. Fox, though a powerful speaker, ~~would~~ has not moral influence enough to add valuable members to the League. I have not heard of his taking up the subject. I ought to have said before that I think Mr Garrison has ~~had~~ done a good deal ~~effect~~ in exciting the attention of various dissenting bodies in this country ~~[illegible]~~ as religious societies, to Amn Slavery, & the effects of their intercourse with slaveholding Churches.

You spoke of the probability of extracts of letters appearing in the Oct. 1st No of the N.A.S. Standard, giving an account of Mr G.'s visit to Bristol. They would interest us, could we see them; I had 2 Standards of Oct. 8th sent me, but none of Oct 1. — that of Sept 24 came.

I had no doubt of your believing that I was pretty well able to judge of the mode of treating the subject of Amn Slavery & Abolitn that would be best adapted to the circle I desired to influence: it was the allowance I was, & am ~~disposed~~ inclined to make in the B. Notice for well-disposed & well principled Slaveholders that I did not expect would give satisfaction. — I am only waiting for some promised suggestions from Geo. Thompson to print a second edition - Mr Webb recommends its being stereotyped, as being likely to become a stock publication.

I think F. Douglas acted most wisely in attending the Annual Meeting of the B. & F. A. S. Socy. His first business is to excite sympathy for the slaves, & then he may go on to enlist them in behalf of the Amn. A. S. S. as the most true in principle of the Abolition parties -

Mr. Thompson gave me an account of the meeting at Jos. Sturge's house between J. S. & Mr Garrison, and of the thorough manner in which Mr G. entered into every point of the affair of N. Colver. I imagine Jos. Sturge was heartily glad when the breakfast party was over: his note of invitation to W. L. G. was a very cool one, & he did not attend the meeting on the previous evening - I suspect he is an uncompromising foe of Garrisonism.

I had no reason from what I saw of H. C. Wright to be otherwise than well pleased with him: his manners were agreeable, & I should call him an interesting man - What makes me angry with him, - (I do not mean really angry) is, his diminishing his sphere of usefulness in Anti Slavery & other ~~important~~ objects by his unnecessarily introducing in a manner very offensive to many, at and at most unseasonable times, his views on the Sabbath question. In my ~~own~~ estimation it shows thorough want of judgement.

Mr James Haughton is an agreeable, kind hearted excellent man; but I think, like friend Wright, often marring his usefulness by ~~his~~ an inconsiderate mode of treating subjects - He comes forward too frequently before the

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public, and is too much of a general philanthropist to have that influence which he would exert, if he were limited in the number of his objects, and ~~the was more~~ if his name was seen less frequently in print. It may not perhaps be very easy to make you comprehend these little niceties that are requisite to influence public opinion; but they are well understood here, — though certainly not by Jos. Haughton. I have heard but one sentiment among friends in this part of the world, and that one of censure, of Mr. Haughton's letter respecting Mr Dana. To me it appears unwarrantably censorious & unkind. It will I am sure, extensively weaken his power of serving the Anti Slavery cause: — the cause itself, happily, is ~~above~~ beyond the reach of permanent injury from its injudicious friends. I am sure there is nothing unkind in Mr. Haughton's nature.

R. D. Webb is a warm hearted, intelligent well read Irishman; having I think more sound judgment than is the usual characteristic of his countrymen. He has a most devoted attachment to Garrison. Douglas, of whom he has seen a good deal, he does not much like. He says he is suspicious, unconfiding, & rather selfish, & very difficult to please. Mr. Webb however, makes every allowance for him and does not complain of him: I am sure he would be very unwilling to prejudice any body against F. D. He could not avoid saying all this to me, & though I think it well to communicate this opinion, which I doubt not to be a very sound & correct one to you, I hope you will not repeat to any one, Mr. W's remarks.

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You mentioned formerly that you would be glad of any hints as to the most useful & appropriate manner of testifying to ~~Br~~ English contributors to the Fair, your sense of their kindly feeling. Certainly the more widely your notices of the Bazaar can be circulated among the donors, the greater will be the satisfaction afforded. Slips of the account of the Fair I presume would cost but little; indeed a pound or two would be well employed in this way. If for instance 1000 slips were sent to us, we could furnish them to all the parties who have sent to the Bristol box as well as to Bridgwater & Exeter, whence separate boxes have been forwarded? What share of printed acknowledgements the Bristol donors are to receive, you must decide: we will not be unreasonable; but an abstract of donors & donations in a sort of paragraph form shall be sent which will serve to aid in any list that may be made out.

We received this year £28 of money donations. Seven pounds of this were sent in consequence of the "Brief Notice". It is well we had a good fund: for the transmission of the box has cost between £9 & £10. I wish there were some cheaper mode of conveyance. We have been greatly indebted to Mr. White of the house of Gibbs, Bright & Co of Liverpool, for much valuable aid in getting off the box, besides the donation of £1 in behalf of some unexpected freight charges —

I have now briefly referred to the various topics contained in your letter, and with my daughter's kind regards hasten to subscribe myself

Yours sincerely

J. B. Estlin.

8 O'Clock P.M.

I was finishing this in time for to-night's post to go that it might reach Mr Garrison to-morrow evening. But an unexpected postponement of an engagement occurring, & the weather being mild, I have determined, partly per[illegible]suaded, encouraged certainly by my daughter to run [illegible] Liverpool myself to-morrow to deliver my letter perso[illegible]nally, & ~~say~~ see Mr Garrison off. Mr Webb writes me word he shall cross the channel for the same purpose.

Liverpool. Brown's Hotel,

Tuesday Night. – I am writing by the side of Mr Garrison (with whom I have been dining at Mr Rathbone's) in a room full of friends from all quarters come to say good bye

Recd. Nov. 21.
Ansd. by Packet Ship of Dec. 5. 1846.

Revd. S. May
care of
S. May Esq
Boston

Obliged by
Mr Garrison.

~~Mr. G. may have gone out of his way, to give his views on "vexed Eng. questions";-if so, a mistake doubtless;- but, may it not be yt it did not seem out of y. way to him?~~

~~"unpopular with middle classes"~~ - page 1.

~~who is Dr Campbell? p. 3d~~

~~Stereotyping his "Tract."~~

~~Sturge & Garrison.~~

~~Haughton & Mrs Dana - to Hincks's article.~~

~~Slips of Mrs Chapman's account of y. Fair, for Bristol, &c.~~

~~Cost of sending Box, £9 or 10! Prodigious! Steamer freight too much, Regular trading-packet, &. to Boston fine, Swift ships - freight not 1/3 of y. Steamer.~~

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